

Emma and the Winter Prince

by
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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Emma	A 13 year old girl	13	female
Alex	Emma's younger brother	8	male
Wendy	Emma's mother	35	female
Ted	Emma's father	36	male
Cathy	A very excited real estate agent	30	female
Woden	The Winter Prince	??	Male
Jack	The Frost, Woden's cousin	??	Male
Maya	The Spring Princess	??	Female
Daiki	A Japanese Toy		
Tolstoy	A Russian Toy Bear		
Hairy Coo	A Scottish Stuffed Cow		
Snargle	A Winter Goblin (aka snowman)		
Gnargle	Another Winter Goblin		
Green Door One, Two, Three	The door to the Green Man's realm; three parts		
Green Man	Sylvanus, a spirit	Old	Male
George	A Bridge Troll		

SCENE 1: HOME SWEET HOME.

The Exterior of a McMansion, somewhere in the Southwest. All Tans and Browns and Xeriscaping as far as the eye can see.

EMMA, 13 going on 30, enters. Eyes on her phone. She barely looks up at the house, grimaces, and goes back to her phone. Her father, TED, follows, house keys in hand.

TED

Everyone grab a box!

In runs ALEX, 9, empty handed.

ALEX

This house looks awesome!

Chasing after is his mother, WENDY, trying to coral Alex and carry a box.

WENDY

Wait up, Alex! Your father has the keys.

ALEX

I wanna check out my room!

WENDY

Patience!

TED

A little help here, Em?

Emma grabs the smallest box.

TED

Want to do the honors?

Ted jingles the keys he has in his hand. She ignores him.

ALEX

Where's the grass, Dad?

WENDY
It's called xeriscaping.

ALEX
Zero what-?

EMMA
Zero grass. Zero snow. Zero fun.

TED
Out here, we need to conserve water. This yard uses eighty percent less water than a regular yard.

EMMA
Eighty percent more dirt.

Ted puts the boxes down and jingles the keys again.

TED
Emma? Sure could use your help kicking down the door. No? There's a surprise inside!

ALEX
A surprise?!!

WENDY
Emma. Phone down, and help please.

Emma sighs like the world is caving in on her. She grabs the keys, drags her feet to the door, and unlocks it.

WENDY
Surprise?

TED
Oh yeah!

The door swings slowly open as the house disappears. In its place is a family room. Alex bursts past Emma. They both look up. Towering over them is the biggest Christmas tree she has ever seen.

ALEX
Whoa!!! It's gigantic!

Ted and Wendy step in behind their kids. Wendy looks incredulously at the tree, then at Ted, back at the tree.

WENDY

How...did....

TED

Power of the internet hon.

Ted admires the tree like a big game hunter.

A knock breaks the silence.

In pops CATHY, 40's, a frighteningly chipper real estate agent. A "Christmas" basket that could feed a small country weighs her arms down. Cathy shoves the basket into Ted's arms as Wendy catches the box he was holding.

CATHY

Oh my goodness! Oh my goodness! And how are we? Survive the trip? Looks like you did. So, is everything looking ok? This is for you. Now I do say, this is the first time I've ever had the pleasure of setting up a Christmas tree for a client.

TED

Fantastic job Cathy. Really.

WENDY

It's. Breathtaking.

CATHY

Thank you thank you thank you. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a tree now would it?

ALEX

There's no way Santa will miss us now! You can see this tree from space!

EMMA

Santa's missed us every year--

WENDY

Emma--

CATHY

No way indeed, young Alex is it? It was quite the feat getting it in the door, I have to tell you! Goodness! Lucky for you, the sliding doors were big enough. I just love the smell of a fresh cut tree!

ALEX

Me too! Reminds me of sledding in the woods back home. Or, you know, where our old home was.

EMMA

It's still there. We're just not there anymore.

CATHY

Now you're here! And to think of all the new kids you both will meet. And new friends. Such an exciting adventure!

EMMA

Have you ever moved, Mrs. Germaine?

CATHY

Why, no I haven't, dear. Lived here all my life. The desert is such a beautiful place.

EMMA

If you like dirt. And cactus.

TED

Cacti. Or Cactuses. Both work.

CATHY

You're the writer! Well, I will leave you all to settle in and enjoy your new house. And Tree! Merry Christmas!

ALL BUT EMMA

Merry Christmas.

ALEX

Happy Kwanzaa. And Hanukkah. And Yule. And--

CATHY

Such a smart boy!

ALEX

I wrote a paper on them.

CATHY

Fantastic! Well, bye bye then!!

Cathy EXITS.

ALEX

I'm gonna go check out my room.

WENDY

Grab a box!

Alex dashes off, and Wendy follows, grabbing a box.
Ted looks at Emma.

TED

So. What do you think?

EMMA

It's ok.

TED

OK? That tree is more than OK. It's gigantic! And it looks bare just standing there.

Ted grabs a box labeled XMAS DECOR with a grin.
Emma isn't interested.

TED

I know Sunnyslope isn't Springfield. It's December and there's no snow on the ground. No more snowmen, or ice forts, or shoving snow down Alex's pants. But Christmas is right around the corner, and the one thing we will always have is each other. And I really need you to behave and let Alex, well, be Alex.

EMMA

And believe in Santa.

TED

And believe in Santa. And the Solstice Coin. And the Force. And whatever else he imagines. Just like you used to play dress up, and make these wonderful journals and scrapbooks. And believe.

EMMA

It's hard to believe in anything when everything's been taken away.

Emma walks off.

SCENE 2: BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Evening. Emma lies on her unmade bed gloomily staring at her phone. Half open moving boxes are stacked about, labeled Books, Stuff, Clothes, etc. One door leads into the hallway to the rest of the house, another into a closet.

A KNOCK on her bedroom door.

EMMA

Go away.

The door cracks open as Alex peers in.

EMMA

I said go away!

ALEX

Mom says to brush your teeth!

EMMA

Leave me alone.

Emma tosses a toy at the door. Alex scurries away.

ALEX

Mom! Emma's being mean!

Emma goes back to her phone. With a cry of disgust, she tosses it into a box. Wendy opens the door.

WENDY

May I come in?

EMMA

Free country.

Wendy sits on the bed. She peers into a still full box as Emma's phone buzzes inside. She picks it up.

WENDY

What's Shelly up to?

EMMA

Nothing.

WENDY

Ah. The Winter Social. Listen, Emma. I know you miss your old friends, but think of all the new friends you'll make here, and all the new pages we can put in your memory book.

Wendy pulls out of the box Emma's MEMORY BOOK.

It is a large three ring binder overflowing with scrapbook pages, article clippings, photos. Anything that catches Emma's imagination. Or caught. Wendy leafs through it.

WENDY

Look at all that snow! Remember that snow fort you and I made! That mountain of snow balls? We really pummeled the boys, didn't we. Dad was frozen for a week! These pages are so magical, Emma. Oh my gosh. This camping trip?! Remember the bird nest we found? And that cool tree!? You climbed all the way to the top, and really freaked me out, but you were always fearless.

Ted steps into the doorway, Alex right behind.

TED

Speaking of memories, it's the solstice right?

ALEX

Right.

TED

Something's missing.

ALEX

Oh my gosh! Solstice Coins!!

Alex leaps at a box and digs into it.

EMMA

Alex! Get out of my stuff!

Alex tosses a walkie talkie, a flashlight, maybe a stuffed animal or two. Emma gets up and shoves Alex out of the way.

WENDY

Kids, it's too late for fighting.

TED

Wait, Alex... what's that - in your ear?

Ted grabs Alex, and from his ear, magically pulls out a well aged silver dollar sized coin. A Solstice Coin.

ALEX

No WAY!!

Alex checks to see if anything else falls out of his head. Then he sees the walkie talkie. He puts it on Emma's nightstand, and turns it on.

TED

Where's your coin Em?

EMMA

I'm too old for that stuff.

WENDY

Don't let Saint Nick hear you.

TED

Or Prince Woden.

ALEX

You have to Em! If you don't hide the coin under your pillow, Woden won't come! How else is Saint Nicholas going to know if we've been bad or good?!

Alex makes the big eyed sad face and tries to give Emma his coin. She just stares at him.

ALEX

Pleeeeeease?

Ted guides Alex to the door.

TED

Why don't I get this one ready for bed, and you can finish up here.

Ted and Alex exit.

EMMA

Mom, you know tomorrow's just another day.

WENDY

The day after the Solstice? After Woden collects-

EMMA

Woden doesn't exist mom.

WENDY

Oh-ho! I wouldn't say that aloud. He might hear you!

EMMA

Mom, just. I'm thirteen.

WENDY

Every year, you've put a coin under your pillow. See? All these pages, all these photos? And our riddles?! You used to love riddles. I have leaves, yet I am not a tree. I have a spine, yet I am not a man. I have--

EMMA

Why did we move?!

WENDY

I have an amazing opportunity at the university here, and well, your father can always find work.

EMMA

He's a writer. He doesn't work.

WENDY

Sometimes life hands you difficult choices.

EMMA

Not like I have a choice.

WENDY

We always have a choice, Emma. Like to mope about like a zombie, or put away some of your things.

Emma takes the Memory Book and dumps it into a box.

EMMA

There. Away.

ALEX (OFF STAGE)

MOM!!

Ted appears at the doorway.

WENDY

I think I am being called! Good night, hon.

Wendy kisses Emma goodnight, then looks askew at Ted.

WENDY

No Captain Bonzai?

TED

He wanted the Queen of the Universe to tell the story.

WENDY

At least he got my title right. Good luck...

Wendy leaves. Ted spins a coin in his fingers.

TED

Tonight's the Solstice!

EMMA

Dad.

TED

Soooooo, no Solstice Coin?

EMMA

No thanks.

TED

You're not so old you can't believe, Emma. Mom and I still do.

EMMA

I'm not a kid anymore. I'm 13.

TED

Don't be in such a rush to grow up, kiddo.

Dad slips her coin under her pillow as he kisses her good night.

Good night sweetie.

TED

Ted turns off the light, and leaves the door ever so slightly cracked open.

Close the door please.

EMMA

Ted sighs as he does so.

Darkness. Emma stares out the window. Her eyes slowly droop and close.

A strange staticy VOICE makes Emma's eyes pop open.

Eeeemmmmmaaaaaaa.

ALEX

She looks around. Nothing. She puts her head down. The VOICE again.

Emmmmmmmaaaaaaa!

ALEX

She bolts upright.

Who's there?

EMMA

Emmmmmmmaaaaaaa!

ALEX

Wait a second...

EMMA

Emma listens close, and finds the WALKIE TALKIE.

Come find meeeeeeee.

ALEX

EMMA

(into the walkie)

You should be asleep!

ALEX

(from the walkie)

We haven't played Lost and Found in for ever!

Alex peeks through Emma's door, holding his bedtime stuffy.

Emma keeps talking into the radio.

EMMA

You're are gonna be in big trouble when I tell Mom and Dad you're up past your bedtime, and-

ALEX

BOO!

Emma YELPS as Alex flops on Emma's bed, laughing.

EMMA

Shhhhh! Mom and Dad are gonna hear you!

ALEX

Nah. They're watching TV. You put your coin under your pillow yet?

EMMA

Nope.

ALEX

What? Why not?

EMMA

It's all made up.

ALEX

Is not!

EMMA

Yup.

Not!!

ALEX

Bet cha!

EMMA

Bet what?

ALEX

Chores. You do mine if I prove to you there is no Woden.

EMMA

And if he does exist?

ALEX

I'll do yours.

EMMA

All month?

ALEX

All Month.

EMMA

You're ON!

ALEX

They pinkie swear. Suddenly, a loud THUMP from Emma's closet.

EMMA

What was that?

They sit there for a moment. Another THUMP.

ALEX

Did that come from your closet?

Emma grabs for her cell phone. But it's not there. She grabs the flashlight. Clicks it on. Steps towards the closet.

ALEX

What are you doing?!

Emma slowly grabs the door knob. Then YANKS the door open!

WODEN, a young man, 16-18, silver blonde hair and piercing blue eyes, stares back in surprise.

They all scream.

WODEN

Freeze!

Emma and Alex suddenly stop dead, mid scream.

Woden checks his pulse. Then slumps onto an unopened box.

WODEN

Whew! You two almost gave me a heart attack! Man!

Emma and Alex watch him with wide eyes, still frozen. Woden picks up a stuffed bear.

WODEN

Not my night, captain. I know, I know. But you've been late on your reports. Yes, I got your Form 1136. That's how I found this place. Oh, yeah, you are probably right. Alright, you two. I'm going to unfreeze you. NO screaming! Blink if you agree. Excellent. Defrost!

Emma and Alex collapse. Then chatter over each other in surprise.

EMMA

Oh my god! What happened? Who are you? What are you doing here! I'm gonna scream if you don't--

ALEX

Wow. Did you just freeze us? That was awesome. How did you do that? Do Mom and Dad--

WODEN

Freeze!

They freeze, mid sentence.

WODEN

One at a time. And I'll start with you, Alexander. Defrost!

Alex blurts out his questions a mile a minute.

ALEX

Wowowowowow!! How did you, I mean, what is going on, Mom and Dad are going to kill us, did you really talk to ???? How do you do that? How do you know my name?

WODEN

One at a time. OK. No, yes, magic, the list.

ALEX

What list?

WODEN

You know, the list. The. List. Naughty or Nice? I better let your sister go before she explodes, eh?

ALEX

Yeah. Wait, magic?

WODEN

Defrost.

EMMA

I don't know who you are, but you'd better go before I scream and call my parents in here.

WODEN

No screaming please! I'm just here for your coins, and I'll be outta your hair! It's a long night!

ALEX

Our what?

WODEN

Your coins? Under your pillow?

ALEX

Woden?!?

EMMA

No. Way.

WODEN

The Winter Prince, at your service.

Woden gets up and does a regal bow. He then eyes the stuffed bear.

WODEN

Under the pillow? Thanks Captian.

Woden goes to Emma's pillow and pulls out her coin.

EMMA

Who? Who are you talking to?

WODEN

Why, Bartelbee of course. Or, if I may use your full name? Thank you, Captain Bartelbee Bear.

EMMA

How do you know that?!

WODEN

I'm the Winter Prince. I know all your toy's names.

ALEX

WHOA!

WODEN

Whoa indeed, Alexander. Or Alex if I may?

ALEX

Sure.

WODEN

Thank you.

EMMA

How?! You can't talk to toys. They're just, toys.

WODEN

There's no such thing as just a toy.

ALEX

Who's my captain?

WODEN

Why, you're holding him right now. At ease Captain Starwarrior.

ALEX

Cool! At ease.

Woden salutes. So does Alex.

EMMA

You still haven't answered my question.

WODEN

And which one was that?

EMMA

How can you talk to toys?

WODEN

Oh. Simple. THIS!

Woden shows them his RING. It is a beautiful silver ring with white and blue stones.

EMMA

A ring?

WODEN

Not just any ring. The Winter Ring.

Woden holds up the ring, and all the lights in the room dim. The Ring shines a light like a crisp winter morning after a fresh snow fall.

ALEX

Whoa. Brrrr.

EMMA

Brrrrrr. Why's it so cold?

ALEX

And it smells like it's, snowing! How did you..

WODEN

The ring is connected to everything winter. It also allows me to teleport to every Solstice Coin, freeze things, make it snow.

The ring returns to normal.

ALEX

You mean Dad was right?! HA! Chores! All. Month!

WODEN

Yup.

EMMA

I didn't.

WODEN

Didn't what?

EMMA

I didn't put a coin under my pillow. So why are you in my room?

WODEN

Your brother put all his boxes in front of his closet.

ALEX

Sorry.

WODEN

No problem. It made it difficult to get out. So, I popped over to get your coin and well, the rest is history.

EMMA

So. Let me get this straight. YOU, the Winter Prince, travel across the WHOLE world on the Solstice, with a magic ring, collecting coins, and reports from Toy Captains to help Uncle Nick, otherwise known as Santa, with his list?

WODEN

In a nutshell.

EMMA

I'm just dreaming, and I'm going to wake up any second!

WODEN

Nope. You're totally awake.

ALEX

Totally.

EMMA

There is no Saint Nick. Or Santa Claus.

WODEN

He'll be sad too hear you say that.

ALEX

See! Told you!

EMMA

Prove it! Make him appear, all jolly and stuff.

WODEN

Uncle is a bit busy right now. Christmas is only a few days away.

EMMA

Then I'm totally dreaming. And none of this is real.

ALEX

I'm real!

WODEN

Proof is it? Hmm. I'm not supposed to do this, but. Here. Touch the ring, and You can make it snow.

EMMA

In my room?

WODEN

I was thinking outside, actually. Less clean up. But sure. In your room. All you have to do is believe.

Woden holds his ring out. Emma stares dubiously at the ring.

ALEX

Can I try?!

WODEN

You can make the snow sublimate, how's that.

ALEX

Yes! Wait... what does that...

EMMA

When a solid turns into a gas.

WODEN

Emma knows her science.

EMMA

It's my thing. Science. Math. Logic.

WODEN

No logic here. Just snow. Go on.

Woden offers the ring again. Again the room shifts to a brisk winter morning feel. Emma stares. Then closes her eyes and touches the ring.

It instantly goes dead. And so do all the lights.

EMMA

Umm. Woden?

WODEN

Don't worry. It's just restarting. Let me take it off.

ALEX

Let me see it!

Alex crowds into Woden, who bumps into Emma, who shoves Alex back, who knocks the ring out of Woden's hand.

WODEN

Oh no!

EMMA

Good job Alex!

ALEX

Hey! You shoved me.

EMMA

You are always screwing things up!

ALEX

I am not!

Suddenly, malicious laughter echoes in the dark.

ALEX

What was that?!

Uh oh....

WODEN

With a gust of freezing wind and flash of ice cold light, JACK FROST (16-18) appears. He is dressed in cold colors, looks kinda like an unhappy uncool snowboarder.

Alex and Emma scream.

SILENCE!

JACK

Jack raises his hands, and a freezing wind swirls around them, forcing them backwards. Woden doesn't budge. He shouts over the wind.

WODEN

Jack! What are you doing here?

JACK

What am I doing here? Oh, just cleaning up your mess. For the last time!

With a gleeful laugh, Jack swoops the ring up. He puts it on. And flourishes his two rings, His and Wodens. Both glow ice cold.

JACK

I have been waiting for so long for this moment! SO LONG! And now, all I have to say is:

Jack sticks his tongue out at Woden and blows a Raspberry just as Alex leaps onto Jack.

ALEX

Give that BACK!

The ring turns a bone chilling blue. Both Jack and Alex begin to float up in the freezing wind.

Boxes and clothes swirl about in the maelstrom.

EMMA

Alex! NO!

Get off me kid!

JACK

Alex, no!

WODEN

Give it back!

ALEX

FOOL! Get off me or else-

JACK

The wind ROARS and with a FLASH of light--

JACK AND ALEX VANISH.

Emma darts about in a panic. Woden slumps to the bed, all energy drained out of him.

~~ALEX!~~

EMMA

~~Oh no.~~

WODEN

Alex? Alex? What just happened? Where's my brother?! MOM! DAD!

EMMA

They can't hear you.

WODEN

What? Why not?

EMMA

They're frozen.

WODEN

Unfreeze them!

EMMA

I can't!

WODEN

EMMA

What do you mean, can't? You're the mighty Winter Prince!

WODEN

It's the ring that gets me from place to place. And if Jack has it... I'm stuck.

EMMA

As in Jack Frost? I must be dreaming. This is all a dream.

WODEN

Fraid not.

EMMA

If this is a dream, then we can just call your Uncle, or somebody, and lets go get him!

WODEN

It's not like there's cell phones where we live.

EMMA

Can't you like, do some magic and get my brother back?!

WODEN

Who ever has the ring on the Solstice has the ability to teleport, freeze time, and ...

EMMA

And?!

WODEN

And if I don't get back home before sunrise, I will, melt away. And Jack will become the Winter Prince. And THAT would be very very bad.

EMMA

Wait. Melt away?!

WODEN

I'm the embodiment of winter. The snow, crisp air, you know, the fun. Jack is the other side of winter. Dark, cold, lonely. If I don't get back home tonight, I'll just....

EMMA

Sublimate.

WODEN

Could be worse. My brother Samar. Well, he just burns up. And. If Alex is still with Jack when the sun rises, he'll be stuck too. As a. Winter Goblin.

EMMA

This just keeps getting better and better. What use is all this magic?!

Woden slowly turns to Bartelbee Bear.

WODEN

What did you say?

EMMA

What use is all your magic?!

WODEN

No, no. Bartelbee. What's that? We could. No, we could! Yeah. Yeah! OK, that's great. Send out an A.T.B. Let me know what happens.

EMMA

A what?

WODEN

An A.T.B! All Toy Bulletin. He is bound by the ring to go to ANY Solstice Coins out there. So, if we can find out where he is, and we can maybe figure out a way to get me back home. And Alex gets turned into a-

EMMA

Alright! How do we do that?

WODEN

We don't. Bartelbee does.

Woden looks at the Bear. Emma does as well.

EMMA

How exactly?

WODEN

It's kinda like a toy cell phone network. Only they can use it. Normally, they use it to send in their reports, but sometimes they- What? OK! What did you find?

Woden and Emma lean in to Bartelbee.

Off to the side, a Toy appears.

DAIKI, a anime looking transforming jet, sits amongst a slew of other toys watching over a sleeping Japanese child.

DAIKI

A.T.B Received! Captain Daiki here.

WODEN

Captain, is your coin still there?

DAIKI

Negative. Coin was picked up five minutes ago. Although a strange boy was stuck to he who had the ring. Over.

WODEN

Thank you, Captain Daiki. Over and out.

Daiki disappears, and is replaced by TOLSTOY, a Russian Toy Bear.

EMMA

You speak Japanese?

WODEN

Doesn't everyone? He's not in Japan anymore...

TOLSTOY

Come in? Do you read? Captain Tolstoy reporting.

WODEN

Captain Tolstoy! We are looking for Jack Frost! Has he picked up your coin?

TOLSTOY

Da, comrade. A moment ago. And something strange...

WODEN

Yes?!

TOLSTOY

A boy was beating Jack up. Over.

WODEN

Thank you honorable Captain. Over and out.

Tolstoy disappears, and is replaced with a Scottish Hairy Cow named Hairy Coo.

EMMA

What else do you speak?

WODEN

Every language on Earth. It comes in handy. He just left Russia, and Alex is still with him.

HAIRY COO

Ach! Come in? Come in? Haloo? Is this thing on?

WODEN

Yes yes! Prince Woden here. Who is this?

HAIRY COO

Captain Hairy Coo here.

WODEN

What was that? Repeat?

HAIRY COO

Ach! Canna ya not hear me lad?! Captain Hairy Coo, reporting.

WODEN

Uh, no I hear you. Coin status, Captian?

HAIRY COO

Coin still present and accounted for laddie!

WODEN

My Scottish is a bit rusty. Ach! Tanks!

HAIRY COO

Cheers! Over and out!

The Cow disappears.

WODEN

So, Scotland. Scotland. He's not back yet. We've got some time.

EMMA

How do we get to where ever it is we need to go?

WODEN

Winterland. But we need to get a hold of my sister, Maya.

EMMA

How do we do that? You guys haven't joined the modern age with cell phones or computers.

WODEN

We need something from spring.

EMMA

It's the middle of winter!

WODEN

It could be anything. But it has to be special. A picture, drawing, flower, song, poem. Something--

Emma pulls out her Memory Book.

EMMA

Magical? Did you make this?

Emma turns to a page and shows it to Woden.

EMMA

Yes. Well, my mom helped, but I did it. Will this work?

WODEN

Absolutely.

Woden touches the pages.

WODEN

Concentrate on the memories of this trip, Emma. Focus on them. What is the sky like?

Emma closes her eyes and focuses. The room begins to feel like Spring. A gentle breeze rustles the flowers.

EMMA

The sky is a perfect shade of blue. A few fluffy cotton ball clouds float by. The trees reach up so high and tall, like they are touching the sky. Everything smells fantastic. Bees are buzzing, birds are chirping..

A bird chirp/cell phone rings.

EMMA

What was that?!

WODEN

Hello? Hello? Keep going. The smell of spring. The bees and birds.

EMMA

Dad points out a colorful Finch, and a Blue Jay. And there is a nest of baby birds. We sneak up and try to get closer...

Again, a cell phone/bird chirp ringing. Woden nods at Emma.

EMMA

Umm. Hello?

A very sleepy young girls voice floats out of the spring wind. It's MAYA, the Spring Princess.

MAYA

Mmmmmm. Hello?

WODEN

Maya? Maya that you?

MAYA

Yeah. Who's this?

WODEN

Woden, your big brother.

MAYA

What? Why'd you wake me up? It's too early...

WODEN

Don't hang up! It's an emergency!

MAYA

Uh-huh. Like the last time!

WODEN

OK, I said I was sorry.

MAYA

Doesn't make up for waking me up with a snowball.

WODEN

Jack's got the ring.

Silence.

Um. Hello? Maya?
WODEN

He what?
MAYA

Um. He's got the ring.
WODEN

WHAT?!
MAYA

Out of the closet bursts MAYA, 8-10, in her wonderful green pajamas, with a flutter of birds and butterflies.

Emma jumps out of her skin.

AHHHH!
EMMA

I'm so going to tell Uncle on you!! Who's that? Where are we?
MAYA

In my room.
EMMA

Emma, Maya, my sister. Maya, this is Emma.
WODEN

Hi!
MAYA

Uh, hi?
EMMA

You are in SO much trouble!!!
MAYA

Not if we get it back before the sun rises.
WODEN

I remember the last time you lost the ring....
MAYA

WODEN

Maya-

MAYA

You had to shovel out the barn for decades!

WODEN

Alright! Sheesh! This time is different. Jack took it.

MAYA

Oh. Oh no. Are you ok?

WODEN

I'm ok. We better get moving.

MAYA

Jack!! One of these days I'm going to make his nose hairs sprout vines! You know, he always likes to give my plants frost bite!

EMMA

He does?

MAYA

So last year, I planted flowers. So. Many. Flowers. He was sneezing for weeks!!

EMMA

And he has my brother.

MAYA

Wait. He what?! This keeps getting better! So. My older brother needs my help, does he? Sounds like you are gonna owe me big time!

WODEN

Yes, Maya. I will owe you a huge favor! Now can we please go? We need to talk to the Green Man.

MAYA

Oh ho ho!!! You want to wake up Mr. Cranky Pants?! Now?! In the middle of winter? Are you nuts?! No way.

EMMA

Mr. Who?

MAYA

Cranky Pants. Green Man. He guards the link between Winter and Spring.

WODEN

And if you think she's cranky...

MAYA

I am not cranky! I just like my beauty sleep.

EMMA

Please, can you help me get my brother back? And help Woden get his ring back? And wake me up?!

MAYA

No can do on that last one. How did you wake me up, anyway?

WODEN

She did.

MAYA

Really? Cool. Been a long time since a human was able to wake me up. Usually it's this bozo. Or Jack. C'mon. Lets go!

EMMA

What? Wait a sec! Go Where??

MAYA

Gardenia. Duh.

EMMA

How will we? What about my brother? Who are you people?

MAYA

Just take my hand, close your eyes, and think of the best spring ever.

(Chants)

Leaves of green, sun of gold, take us to where roots take hold.

Pause. Maya frowns.

MAYA

The BEST spring ever, Woden. Not that.

WODEN

That IS the best spring ever.

MAYA

Uh-huh. Again!

They close eyes again.

MAYA

Leaves of green, sun of gold, take us to where roots take HOLD! Say it with me. Concentrate!

A wind begins to rustle, birds chirp, trees sway.

ALL

Leaves of green, sun of gold, take us to where roots take HOLD!

A RUSH of wind and swirl of leaves. They Vanish.

SCENE 3 THE ICE CASTLE

A freezing wind swirls ice and snow beneath a blinding cold sun. A Castle made of ice glints in the distance. In front of it is a very treacherous looking bridge, over a very deep chasm.

Two Winter Goblins, Snargle and Gnargle, stand guard on the bridge. Short, rotund, splotchy white with beady eyes. Stubby arms and feet. Worst snowmen ever.

SNARGLE

You tell 'im Gnargle!

GNARGLE

No, you tell 'im, Snargle!

SNARGLE

I'm not tellin 'im!

GNARGLE

You better or I'll-

SNARGLE

Or you'll what?

They snarl at each other. The WIND picks up. They scramble to attention as Jack and Alex appear, overlapping lines.

GNARGLE

SIR! Sir, yes sir! Welcome back sir.
How was the trip sir? Did you melt?

SNARGLE

SIR! Sir, indeed sir. How was the trip
sir? Was it hot? Did you melt?

JACK

Stop! Both of you. Yes, It was terribly hot.

Alex looks about, shivering. His jaw drops as he looks
up at the menacing Ice Castle.

ALEX

Whoa.

JACK

Come on!

Jack walks across the bridge over the moat. Alex looks
down. Its a long way to the bottom.

ALEX

Whoa. Hey? Where's the water?

JACK

Water?

ALEX

Moats have water. It's a defense that medieval castles used...

JACK

Who needs water when you have trolls.

Just then something GRUMBLES down below. The
bridge shakes. Snargle and Gnargle scream and hug
Alex.

JACK

Lets go guys!

Alex and the Goblins waddle into the castle. Huge blocks
of ice make up the walls. Icicles perilously perch from
the ceiling.

ALEX

Whoa. You live here?

JACK

And would you please stop saying that! There are so many more expressions of wonder in the english language.

ALEX

Like?

JACK

How does fantastic sound?

GNARGLE

Great!

SNARGLE

Great!

JACK

Or awesome? Marvelous! Sensational!

SNARGLE

What's that mean?

GNARGLE

What mean?

SNARGLE

Mervel-

GNARGLE

Morkus-

ALEX

Marvelous?

GNARGLE

Yeah!

SNARGLE

That.

ALEX

Ummm. Really cool?

SNARGLE

It is.

ALEX

It is what?

Really cool. More cold I'd say.
GNARGLE

Freezing!
SNARGLE

Arctic?
GNARGLE

Arctic! Biting, bleary, blisteringly cold! And now you're stuck here, who ever you are.
JACK

Alex! Told you like a thousand times.
ALEX

Whatever. Do to your, inability to let go of my ring-
JACK

It's not yours! It belongs to Woden!
ALEX

Woden!
GNARGLE

Where?!
SNARGLE

Not here! Snargle and Gnargle!
JACK

Sir! Yes Sir!
SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Why don't you show our guest his new quarters.
JACK

Aye aye!
SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

New what? Wait! I don't live here.
ALEX

You do now.
JACK

ALEX

What?

JACK

Now that I have this!

Jack flourishes the Winter Ring. Lights dim, a bone chilling wind swirls. Alex shivers, Snargle and Gnargle stare in awe.

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Ahhhhh. The ring. The ring.

JACK

Yes. The Ring! Finally, after so many years, I will be the Winter Prince! And you, my dear boy, will make a fine Captain of my Winter Goblins, and lead them into battle. But first, we should do something about your clothes, since you will be living here, forever.

ALEX

Wait, what?

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Us sir!

SNARGLE

Goblins, Winter!

GNARGLE

Winter Goblins!

JACK

You will need to learn how to build towering forts, have devastating snowball fights, and tame the dragon. But you might want to wear something, warmer.

ALEX

What do you mean stuck here forever? What dragon?!?

JACK

Stuck like glue! Cling like Ivy! Mmmm. Maybe not that one. You see, IF any kid stays in Winterland past the sunrise of the Winter Solstice, he's stuck, and will become one of my Winter Goblins! And lead them in our battle to take over the Seasons!

ALEX

All three of us?

JACK

Well, I think this is the first time it's happened.

ALEX

So how do you it's true?

JACK

Guess we will have to find out, eh--- kid?

ALEX

It's Alex! And I'm freezing!

Jack digs into a ice chest, and pulls out a parka. A big one.

JACK

Here! Try this on!

Snargle and Gnargle help Alex into the parka.

ALEX

It's a little big!

Jack pulls out scarves, gloves, hats, etc.

JACK

Then here's this. And this. Just tie it here. Wrap this there.

Jack, Snargle and Gnargle swarm Alex, warping him up in a bundle of clothes. They step back, and admire their handiwork. Alex is buried inside.

JACK

Perfect!

Alex mumbles something.

JACK

Exactly! Now off to your new quarters!

Jack triumphantly leaves. Snargle and Gnargle take off right after him

Alex sits there, trying to move and talk. All he does is fall over.

Jack re-enters, pushing Snargle and Gnargle.

JACK

WITH our new guest!

SNARGLE

Sir, yes sir! Right this way, Captain.

GNARGLE

Sir, yes sir! Right this way, Captian.

They roll Alex out of the room.

SCENE 4: PORTAL OF PUZZLES

A beautiful Japanese maple shades a LARGE WOODEN DOOR set into a tall wall. The door is covered with Green Men carvings. The wall has Ivy, Holly, Snowdrops, etc, growing over it. A picture perfect vision of when winter meets spring.

Maya, Woden, and Emma enter.

MAYA

You sure you want to do this?

WODEN

You got any better ideas?

EMMA

Ask your Uncle for help?

MAYA

She does have a point.

WODEN

This is the only way to the Green man, and into Winterland without my ring.

Woden goes to the door and yanks. It won't budge. He tries again, really getting his back into it. Emma joins him. They both pull with all their might. Nothing.

EMMA

How do we do we open the door?

She pounds the door with her fist. The doors reverberate loudly, as if they were hollow.

Nothing happens. She looks back at Woden and Maya. They shrug.

MAYA

I've never tried to wake him up early before. And this is way early. I'm not sure if he'll even be here.

EMMA

And you didn't think to mention this before?

MAYA

Like my brother says. This is the only way. Not that it's going to work.

EMMA

How do we find out if he's here?

Emma knocks again. Again, it echoes. Again, nothing.

EMMA

Right. I'm a good climber. Up and over the wall.

Emma starts to climb, but the vines twist and move so she can't get a sure footing.

EMMA

HEY!

WODEN

Quit fooling around sis.

MAYA

That isn't me. We have to go through the door.

Emma climbs back down.

EMMA

Is there something else? A secret word, open sez-a-me, or something?

MAYA

Nope. I usually just knock.

Emma puts down her keepsake pages, and knocks on the door. It echoes again.

Suddenly, three Green Man Faces pop out of the door! Emma leaps back with a yelp.

What's this? DOOR TWO

Who knocks? DOOR ONE

How rude!! DOOR TWO

Not time!! DOOR ONE

Who dares!! DOOR THREE

Speak or be knots. ALL DOORS

Guardian Door. It's Maya, the Spring-- MAYA

Knock knock! DOOR ONE

Who's there? EMMA

Spring princess. DOOR THREE

Spring princess who? EMMA

Spring Princess who wakes us up too early. DOOR TWO

Too early! Time to sleep still. DOOR THREE

Still cold, still cold. DOOR ONE

But who are you? ALL DOORS

All the Green Men turn to contemplate Emma.

I'm Emma and I need to see the Green Man. EMMA

You?! DOOR ONE

Wish to see!?! DOOR TWO

The Green Man?! DOOR THREE

The Doors all start to snicker.

Yes. EMMA

Sometimes to get inside a door DOOR THREE

All you need to do is knock DOOR TWO

Other times you will need this thing DOOR ONE

So the door you can unlock. DOOR TWO

I don't understand. EMMA

It's a riddle. MAYA

Leaves and vines wrap around Woden and Maya, silencing them.

Yes riddles.	DOOR TWO
We love riddles.	DOOR ONE
They're OK.	DOOR THREE
Hush!	DOOR ONE AND TWO
For a human to pass,	DOOR ONE
And open the door,	DOOR THREE
A riddle you must answer.	DOOR TWO
No help.	DOOR ONE
No clues.	DOOR TWO
Just you!	DOOR ONE
Poor you!	DOOR THREE
Or we will	DOOR ONE
Close to you	DOOR THREE
Forever.	DOOR TWO
Riddles? I'm more of a science girl myself...	EMMA

Then shut we remain DOOR TWO

If you knock again. DOOR ONE

I like science. DOOR THREE

Hush! DOOR ONE AND TWO

Fine. If I answer your riddle, you'll open? EMMA

Yes! ALL DOORS

And I get three guesses. EMMA

What what what? ALL DOORS

If there are three of you, then I should get three guesses. EMMA

Mmmmm. ALL DOORS

The Door confers with itself.

Agreed! ALL DOORS

But with each wrong guess DOOR ONE

You will turn into a tree. DOOR THREE

To grow here for eternity! DOOR TWO

No WAY! EMMA

You want three guesses,	DOOR THREE
We need a new tree.	DOOR TWO
Agreed?	ALL DOORS
Fine.	EMMA
I am born in Winter,	DOOR TWO
Jack Frost do I crown.	DOOR THREE
My roots crawl up,	DOOR ONE
But I grow straight down.	DOOR TWO
In Spring I will fade,	DOOR ONE
And all around,	DOOR THREE
My tears do fall,	DOOR TWO
And water the ground.	DOOR THREE
What am I?	ALL DOORS
Easy. Ice.	EMMA
Wrong!	ALL DOORS

Suddenly, her shoes sprout roots and her legs begin to turn into tree trunks.

EMMA

Hey! What the?! OW!

DOOR THREE

Roots grow deep,

DOOR ONE

Right from your feet,

DOOR TWO

And now you have two guesses left!

DOOR THREE

That doesn't rhyme!

DOOR ONE AND TWO

We know!

DOOR TWO

Does Emma give up?

DOOR THREE

You'd make a lovely tree.

DOOR ONE

And we could use the shade.

EMMA

OK. It's born in winter. Something cold. Makes a crown for Jack.

DOOR TWO

Hard to open a door

DOOR ONE

Rooted to the floor!

EMMA

Something that's cold that could make a crown.

DOOR ONE

What does she guess?

EMMA

My roots crawl up, but I grow straight down.

DOOR TWO

Does she have an idea?

EMMA

In Spring I will fade.

DOOR THREE

What does she think?

EMMA

And my tears water the ground. Something that cries? In winter?

DOOR ONE

Guess?

DOOR TWO

Guess?

DOOR THREE

Guess?

EMMA

Born in winter, but fades in spring. But not ice. Snow? No. Wet. Cold wet. I know!
An Icicle!!

The door unlocks with a tremendous RUMBLE.

EMMA

YEAH!! And, now. Wait. What about my feet?!

The door laughs as Emma tries to move.

DOOR ONE

The door is open.

DOOR TWO

That is what we promised.

EMMA

That's not fair!

DOOR THREE

Fair?!

Life isn't fair!

DOOR ONE

Who said anything about-

DOOR TWO

Fair?

ALL DOORS

Alright you dumb excuses for door knockers, all or nothing!

EMMA

A challenge?!

DOOR TWO

You get this riddle with ONE guess, tree me.

EMMA

A riddle?!

DOOR ONE

If not, set me free.

EMMA

One guess?

DOOR THREE

The door confers with itself.

Agreed.

ALL DOORS

EMMA

I have leaves, yet I am not a tree. I have a spine, yet I am not a man. I have hinges yet I am not a door! I have no voice, yet I can speak. I also hold things that many seek. What am I?

ALL DOORS

What am I?

DOOR THREE

Oh, dear.

Fun! DOOR TWO

Fun! DOOR ONE

Not a tree. DOOR TWO

Not a door. DOOR ONE

Yes we are. DOOR THREE

No, I mean yes we are, DOOR ONE

But the riddle. DOOR TWO

Can't take your own medicine? EMMA

Hush! DOOR TWO

It's not about a door. DOOR ONE

Or is it? Oh dear. DOOR THREE

Poor portal. Stumped by a human no less. EMMA

Quiet! ALL DOORS

Leaves, but not a tree. Argh! DOOR ONE

Spine, but not a man. Ummm. DOOR THREE

EMMA
Can't even solve a simple riddle.

DOOR ONE
No, no.

EMMA
Give up yet?

ALL DOORS
NO!

DOOR ONE
Leaves

DOOR TWO
Spine

DOOR THREE
Hinges.

DOOR TWO
Tree,

DOOR THREE
Man,

DOOR ONE
Door.

ALL DOORS
Drats!

EMMA
I can't wait here forever!!

ALL DOORS
I give up. I give up. I give up! What is it?

Emma's legs swiftly return to normal. She tumbles free,
and so does both Woden and Maya.

EMMA
A BOOK!!

A what!?

DOOR TWO

A book?!

DOOR THREE

I knew it!

DOOR ONE

No you didn't.

DOOR TWO

Yes I did.

DOOR ONE

I didn't.

DOOR THREE

The Door reverts back to its regular self.

Woden and Emma head to the door. Maya stays back.

Aren't you coming?

EMMA

MAYA

No way. It's way to cold. And the Green Man won't want to see me anyway. He'll just get angrier. Have fun! And good job Emma! The last time a person beat the Guardian Door was a long time ago!

Thank you!

EMMA

You're welcome!

MAYA

Maya gives Emma a hug.

Will I see you again?

EMMA

Every year!

MAYA

I mean. See you again.

EMMA

MAYA

Oh, I am sure you will. Once you get mixed up in this family, we stick around like weeds!

WODEN

Come on! We don't want to keep the Green man waiting!

MAYA

Bye!

Emma and Woden run through the doorway.

SCENE 5: SNOWBALL WAR

Back at the Ice Castle. Snargle and Gnargle are rolling Alex along. Alex is mumbling furiously.

SNARGLE

You say something?

GNARGLE

Nope. You?

SNARGLE

Nope.

They roll some more.

GNARGLE

What was that?

SNARGLE

What?

GNARGLE

Thought I heard something.

SNARGLE

Just your heavy breathing!

GNARGLE

My heavy breathing? How can you hear anything over your huge feet!

They stop. Behind them is a stairwell.

At least I have feet, stumpy!

SNARGLE

I'll show you stumpy.

GNARGLE

Gnargle and Snargle push and shove. One push too far and Alex is shoved down the stairs. Snargle gets caught up. He snags Gnargle.

They ALL crash down the stairs. Alex's clothes are unrolled like yarn.

They land with a THUD. Alex groans.

Get offa me.

GNARGLE

You get offa me!

SNARGLE

Snargle's head rolls next to Alex while his headless body stumbles around the room.

What you looking at?

SNARGLE

Can I get a hand?

GNARGLE

Gnargle is trying to pull his hand out from under Alex.

Me first.

SNARGLE

Alex totters to his feet. Gnargle goes flying, and both arms clatter across the floor.

I'm so sorry! What do I do?

ALEX

Put my head on!

SNARGLE

Alex picks up Snargle's head and chases after the spastic body. Finally he SLAPS it on.

SNARGLE

Ah. Thanks! Hey. Wait a second! I'm on backwards!

As Alex goes over to Gnargle, Snargle frantically tries to get his head back around. Gnargle falls on an arm with no result. Alex picks up the arms.

ALEX

Which is which?

GNARGLE

I dunno.

Alex shoves the twig like arms into Gnargle's body.

GNARGLE

Hey. You even fixed the crick in my neck. Thanks!

Alex finally looks around. Surrounding him is an arsenal of the biggest SNOWBALLS ever. They tower up and up.

ALEX

Whoa. That's a lot of snowballs. How high do they go?

SNARGLE

How high do what go?

Alex finally gets Snargle's head on right.

SNARGLE

OH! Those!

GNARGLE

We just keep making them.

ALEX

For what?

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

War!

War? With snowballs?
ALEX

What else?
GNARGLE

Have you even been in a snowball fight?
SNARGLE

Of course!
ALEX

A real snowball fight!
SNARGLE

With real snowballs!
GNARGLE

Yes. That's what I just said.
ALEX

Where you could lose your head!
GNARGLE

Gnargle pops off Snargle's head and throws it at Alex.

I just got that back on!
ALEX

Alex puts Snargle's head back on. Gnargle tries to take off Alex's head.

Hey! OW! Stop that.
ALEX

Doesn't your head come off?
SNARGLE

No.... OW! It's attached!
ALEX

That's going to be a problem.
GNARGLE

SNARGLE

All our heads come off. So we can be rebuilt.

GNARGLE

How do you get rebuilt?

ALEX

I usually just get a band-aid. Or, see a doctor. But not my head.

SNARGLE

That's going to be a problem when you lead us into battle.

ALEX

But, who are we, I mean you, going to fight?

Jack enters, fiddling with the Winter Ring.

JACK

The Green Man! Don't you know anything kid?

ALEX

I know lots. But I've never heard of the Green Man.

Jack waves his hand over an ice block. It glows ice blue, and shows a picture of the fearsome Green Man.

JACK

He guards the doorway between Winterland and Gardenia. He keeps us locked in! But no more! Now that I have my ring and the Winter Ring, I can open up the door, and finally rule over all the seasons!

SNARGLE

And we can finally see spring!

GNARGLE

And summer!

JACK

No more will Spring melt my Ice Castle. Or Fall leave all his leaves all over the place! My Ice Cannon will cover the entire world in snow and ice!

ALEX

Snowball cannon?

JACK
Snowball cannon.

ALEX
No way.

JACK
Way. Let me show you!

They Exit.

SCENE 6: STONE STAIRCASE

It is pitch black. Water DRIPS. A soft wind MOANS.

Emma fumbles in her pockets, finds the flashlight, turns it on. Her light shines across huge stones covered in carvings, and THREE staircases, one going up, two down.

Emma looks at the carvings.

EMMA
Maybe they show which way to go.

Emma goes to brush away the dirt. Woden snatches her hand away.

WODEN
Don't touch anything.

Emma takes a closer look. Just as her hand gets close to the stone, the carvings bend and warp, trying to latch onto her hand.

EMMA
Is nothing friendly around here?

She kicks at the dirt and stones. They SKITTER into the UP stairwell. AND VANISH with out a sound.

EMMA
Not that one.

She looks at the other two.

EMMA

So. Einy miny miney moe?

WODEN

Just going to leave it to chance?

EMMA

Might as well flip a coin.

Emma pulls out her Solstice Coin.

EMMA

Heads, we go left. Tails, right.

She flips the coin. Catches it and looks at it.

EMMA

Tails. What a sec....No way!

WODEN

What?

EMMA

It's a map!

On the tails side of the coin is a picture much like the room they are in. But with only one door. The Left one.

EMMA

Right. Down it is.

They run down the left stairs.

SCENE 7: THE SNOWBALL CANNON

High atop the tallest tower on the Ice Castle sits the Snowball Canon. A gargantuan howitzer built to blast the universe with snowballs.

Jack enters, with Snargle and Gnargle leading Alex.

JACK

This! This is my piece der resistance!

ALEX

Piece de resist`ance.

JACK

Whatever kid. With this, the ultimate weapon in the universe, I will bring the other seasons to their knees. All winter, all the time! All I needed was the Winter Ring to power it, and viola!

ALEX

Voila.

JACK

Whatever kid. Thanks to you, I will be victorious!!

With an evil laugh, Jack inserts the ring into the cannon!

Nothing happens.

SNARGLE

Is someting supposed to happen sir?

GNARGLE

A whoosh?

SNARGLE

A hummmm of great energy?

GNARGLE

A joyous eruption of menacing power?

JACK

YES! Kid!

ALEX

Alex.

JACK

Whatever. What did you do to the ring?

ALEX

I didn't do anything. You're the one who stole it.

JACK
Make it work.

ALEX
Work?

JACK
Work! This ring has the power of a thousand suns, the energy of a million lifetimes.
Make it work!

ALEX
I don't know. My sister had it last. It stopped glowing when she held it.

JACK
Sister?

SNARGLE
Shall we fetch her?

GNARGLE
Find her?

SNARGLE
Kidnap her?

GNARGLE
Bring her here?

A loud ALARM rings out. Snargle and Gnargle freak out.

SNARGLE
The Door!

GNARGLE
The Door!

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE
The Door is open!

JACK
STOP! Both of you!

Snargle and Gnargle stop dead.

Jack waves his hand over an Ice Block. In its blue glow, we see Emma and Woden go through the Green Man Door.

JACK

No way! That's impossible!

ALEX

What? What happened!?

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

The Door!

JACK

How could they have opened it? And is that? Who is that?

ALEX

Sis! And Woden! She's come to rescue me! Awesome!

Jack turns off the Ice Block.

JACK

So, Woden's figured out a way to get back home with out his ring. And he's brought your sister. But there's only one way here from Sylvanus' place. Snargle! Gnargle!

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Sir yes sir!!

JACK

I have a job for you two. Very important.

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Oh thank you sir!

SNARGLE

Good idea sir!

GNARGLE

Excellent plan sir!

They bumble about and try to leave.

JACK

I haven't told you it yet!

Sorry sir!

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Wake up the Troll.

JACK

Not the troll!

SNARGLE

Oh please sir!

GNARGLE

I had to get rebuilt last time.

SNARGLE

Then wake him up nicely this time!

JACK

I won't let you hurt my sister!

ALEX

Alex tries to grab the ring.

Halt!

JACK

Alex FREEZES in mid motion. Jack smiles.

What's happening?

ALEX

It must be close to sunrise. You are turning into a Winter Goblin. How else do you think you were able to but these two sad sacks of snow back together? Now go. Bring his sister to me. And use this kid as bait.

JACK

They leave.

SCENE 8: THE GREEN MAN

Huge Stonehenge like stones tower above Emma and Woden while gigantic tree roots erupt from the ground. A single shaft of light shines upon a large stump.

EMMA

Does any of this look familiar?

WODEN

Nope.

EMMA

You've never been here before?

WODEN

He's usually waiting for me at the Winter Door.

EMMA

So, now what?

WODEN

Beats me.

Emma looks up.

EMMA

HELLO!?

Her voice echoes.

EMMA

Guess nobody's home-

Suddenly, the ground SHAKES, knocking Woden and Emma to the ground.

The large stones erupt! They form the shape of an old bearded face: SYLVANUS, the GREEN MAN.

GREEN MAN

Who dares waken me before the chimes of spring!!

WODEN

Please forgive us, Sylvanus! We do not mean any disrespect.

GREEN MAN

Rise, Winter Prince. And who is with you? She is not of our kind. Speak.

WODEN

Go on.

EMMA

My name is Emma. Emma Blackthorn.

GREEN MAN

What brings a Daughter of Man to the Land of the Seasons?

EMMA

I am sorry to have woken you up, sir. I. I am trying to rescue my brother from Jack Frost.

GREEN MAN

Jack Frost! Hahaaahaa. What has our nephew been up to during my long sleep?

EMMA

Kidnaping for one. Stealing Woden's ring for another.

WODEN

No, wait-

GREEN MAN

What?! Stand forth, Son of Earth. Present your ring.

WODEN

I can not.

GREEN MAN

Can not? Can NOT!? Have you lost your ring, the symbol of your family, to your cousin Jack?

WODEN

Yes.

GREEN MAN

Aunt Sol begins to make her rise over the horizon. With out your ring, you will loose your powers and your place. Soon, Jack will become the Winter Prince.

EMMA

That's why we are here. We need your help.

GREEN MAN

With out his ring, he has no right to ask me for help. He has no power to stay. Time to go home.

The stones swirl. The ground shakes. Woden tries to call out.

WODEN

Emma! Be careful! The green man never..

Woden vanishes.

EMMA

Woden!

GREEN MAN

And Daughter of Man, your path ends here.

The room begins to spin. The Green Man starts to fade away.

EMMA

What about me? I ask!

Everything SLAMS to a halt. His voice rumbles the ground!

GREEN MAN

You? Daughter of Man, you dare to ask Sylvanus, the keeper of the Doorway between Winter and Spring, for a favor? What can you offer in return?

EMMA

I don't know. I don't have anything. I don't think I do at least.

A branch spirals out and latches onto Emma's page from her memory book.

GREEN MAN

As the season's change, life passes through many phases. The new seed takes root in spring. Comes to full bloom in Summer, bears it's own children in Fall, and returns to the earth in Winter. Yet each seed remembers what to do each season. How do you remember?

EMMA

I keep a memory book.

GREEN MAN

Show me.

The vine snatches it from her grasp and vanishes.

EMMA

NO!! Wait!

GREEN MAN

Interesting.

EMMA

Give that back!! That's mine!

GREEN MAN

Your memories are quite strong, Daughter of Man. Possibly too strong. The seed that can not let go of it's shell will never grow strong roots.

EMMA

I need to get to Winterland and rescue my brother before he gets turned into a Goblin. And to stop Jack from becoming the Winter Prince! Please!

The Green Man contemplates Emma. Suddenly, from the glowing stump, a beautiful flower sprouts.

GREEN MAN

The first flower of spring holds strong magic. Invisible until seen. Silent until smelled. And now it is time to sleep.

EMMA

Sleep?! Wait! What do you mean? How do I save my brother?

The Green Man fades away, back into the stone and roots.

EMMA

What am I going to do with a dumb flower? How can I get back home with out my pages? Woden? Woden? I must be dreaming still. I'll close my eyes, and I'll wake up in my bed back home.

She closes her eyes. Even taps her heels three times.

EMMA

Worth a try.

Emma picks the Flower. A wall OPENS. Behind it stretches a snow white landscape. In the distance, the Ice Castle gleams in the sunlight.

EMMA

No going back now.

She runs into the snow.

SCENE 9: TROLL BRIDGE

Emma comes around a drift and stops.

A freezing wind swirls ice and snow beneath a blinding cold sun. Sounds familiar, yes? A Castle made of ice glints in the distance. In front of it is a very treacherous looking bridge, over a very deep chasm.

EMMA

Finally! No guards? No nothing?

She looks down. Instantly regrets it. It goes a LONG way down.

EMMA

Ah. Thus the no guards thing.

Emma slowly walks onto the bridge, but stops as it begins to sway and creek.

EMMA

One foot in front of the other. Don't look down.

She looks down.

EMMA

Oh man.

She gulps and tentatively takes another step. The whole bridge shudders. Icicles SNAP and CLATTER into the ravine.

A voice echoes across the ravine and freezes her in her tracks. At first the voice is high and kid like, but then it grows deeper.

TROLL
HALT! Ahem. HALT! Who goes there!

Emma FREEZES in fear. She is in the middle the bridge.

TROLL
I asked who goes there?

A tremendous ball of white fur rises up from the ravine.
It looks around but doesn't see Emma.

TROLL
(Kid Voice)
Hello? Aw man!

EMMA
Hello!?

TROLL
AHH!

The head disappears in fright.

EMMA
Weird.

The voice calls out, deep and menacing.

TROLL
Who dares to pass the bridge with outs payments! And no, I am not a troll.

EMMA
I thought only trolls hang out by bridges and collected money to cross.

TROLL
(Kid Voice)
We do.

(Big Voice)
WE DO!

EMMA
And I have to pay you to cross, right?

YES!

TROLL

And if I can't pay?

EMMA

Then I will, um, eats you!

TROLL

Doesn't sound like you want to do that.

EMMA

The head slowly rises up again, and looks around.

TROLL

Who is there? Why can't I see you? I smell you though. You smell like spring.

He slowly lumbers onto the bridge, SNIFFING. He is huge, with long scraggly white hair, big nose, wide eyes and gangly hands.

Emma starts to tip toe back across, but the Troll shakes the bridge.

TROLL

I smell you and hear you tip toe!

Emma screams as she almost slides off the bridge.

In an INSTANT the troll leaps right on top of her, his hands grasping for her.

Emma tries to climb back up, but the bridge is swaying too much.

EMMA

Here! I'm here!!

Suddenly, the troll's eyes find Emma. He screams like a little girl.

TROLL

What are you?

EMMA

I'll be dead if you don't help me up troll face! You want your money or not!

The troll thinks for a moment, then gingerly picks Emma up and puts her on the bridge.

TROLL

I asks again. Whats are you?

EMMA

What do you mean what am I?

TROLL

You don't smells, normal. Whats are you?

EMMA

I'm a girl.

TROLL

A girl? You mean a humans girl? Oh man oh man. Moms and Dads are never going to believes this!

The Troll dances happily, making the bridge sway and buckle.

Emma frantically gets the Coin out and waives it in front of her.

EMMA

Here, take it. Just please don't hurt me!

TROLL

Take what? Oh the toll!

EMMA

What are you staring at?

TROLL

Well, I've never seen a humans before. You look, kinda, funny.

EMMA

Um... ok? Here, and let me pass.

Emma hands him the Solstice Coin. His eyes go wide in anger.

TROLL
Where did you get this from?!

EMMA
From my dad!

TROLL
Liars!

EMMA
I'm not I swear!

TROLL
Only the Seasons use these coins. Only Woden uses these to pay me.

EMMA
I got one from him!

He leers down at her, his stinky breath hot in her face.

TROLL
You've mets Woden?

EMMA
I have.

TROLL
Describes him.

EMMA
He's a little older than me, blondish hair-

TROLL
Nope.

EMMA
Yes.

TROLL
Nope. He's a lot tallers, and has white skins, and silver eyes and--

EMMA
Are we talking about the same Woden? The Winter Prince? Collects Solstice Coins?

TROLL
That's him.

EMMA

Weird. He looks nothing like that.

TROLL

Maybe you just aren't seeing him properly.

EMMA

Maybe.

TROLL

So he gave you this?

EMMA

Yes.

TROLL

Whys?

EMMA

I need to rescue my brother from Jack Frost.

TROLL

Jack!? That no good rotten ice fort stealing-

EMMA

He stole your fort?

TROLL

Well, not my forts. It's mine and Woden's. Where is he? I haven't seen him yet. He usually stops by on his way back on the Solstice.

EMMA

He's stuck with the Green Man.

TROLL

Ugh. That's too bad. He is the crankiest Spirit I've ever met.

EMMA

He seemed kinda nice. He gave me this.

TROLL

He gave you something?

Emma shows the Troll the flower. His eyes go wide.

EMMA

Well, not really. He took something of mine, then gave me this.

TROLL

What is it?

EMMA

A flower.

TROLL

What's that?

EMMA

It's a. Umm. A flower. Don't you know anything?

TROLL

I know lots! I knows that I needs to guards this bridge. And if anyone crosses, I ams to ask for a toll, or eats them.

EMMA

Gross.

TROLL

Yeah.

EMMA

Have you eaten many, things?

TROLL

Nope. I'm kinda new. Only been here for. Uh. Fifty winters.

EMMA

Fifty winters? Fifty years!?

TROLL

Yup. Soons I will graduates and gest my very own bridge somewheres. If my moms and dads lets me.

EMMA

How long till you graduate?

TROLL

Next year! I'm George by the way.

EMMA

George?

TROLL
What's so funny?

EMMA
I just. I never thought that a troll would be named George.

TROLL
And what should I be named?

EMMA
Sorry. I'm Emma.

TROLL
Nice to meets you Emma Human.

EMMA
Just Emma.

TROLL
Nice to meets you Just Emma.

EMMA
Well, George, it has been very nice talking with you, but I really need to rescue my brother. Here's the coin. Now, may I cross?

TROLL
My first real toll! Thanks you Just Emma. Moms and Dads will be so proud!

EMMA
How far is it to the Ice Fort?

TROLL
Right after you get off the bridge, go left. You can't miss it.

EMMA
Thank you, George.

TROLL
Thanks you, Just Emma.

George the Troll climbs down as Emma steps off the bridge. The path goes left and right. She turns left. Just then, Snargle and Gnargle pop up. Behind them, Alex is tied up. But he is looking less human, and more snowman. Maybe his nose is a carrot?

Ah-HA! SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

We have you! SNARGLE

Don't move! GNARGLE

Emma looks around.

And where would I go? EMMA

Good point. GNARGLE

Always wanted to say that. SNARGLE

We have your brother, now give us your hand. GNARGLE

My what? EMMA

Your hand. Pop it off and we'll give you your brother back. SNARGLE

We don't come apart!! I told you that! ALEX

Now you two lame snowmen better let my brother go or else. EMMA

She steps towards them, but they quickly scoot back.

Or else what? SNARGLE

You hurt us? GNARGLE

If I have to...

EMMA

She takes another step, and they scoot back.

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Then come get us!

ALEX

No! Emma! Stay back! It's a---

Suddenly, she falls through a trap door.

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Trap!!

They try to high five. Fail badly. In doing so, they wobble and fall into the tap, dragging Alex with them.

SCENE 10: TRIUMPHANT

Emma lands with a THUMP.

She barely catches her breath before she leaps up.

EMMA

Alex! Alex!

JACK

Alex isn't here anymore.

Jack snaps his fingers. The room glows eerily.

EMMA

Where's my brother, Jack?

JACK

Prince Jack, if you please!

Emma blinks as her eyes finally focus. She is surrounded by thousands of huge--

EMMA

Snowballs?

Do you like them?

JACK

I've made better.

EMMA

I doubt that.

JACK

The door opens. In step Snargle and Gnargle, with Alex right behind.

Sis!

ALEX

Alex!

EMMA

Bind her.

JACK

Alex goes to hug his sister, but he suddenly twists her around and hand cuffs her.

Let go of me! Alex, what are you doing?

EMMA

I cant stop, sis!

ALEX

Ah-ten-HUT! Quiet, Captain. Your loyalties are still in question, for, oh, about another, four minuets. And what do we have here?! Why, it's your sister, come to rescue you from my evil clutches! Mhaaa-haha.

JACK

(He starts to cough)
OK, enough of that! Where's my cousin? You didn't come here alone!

I did!

EMMA

Sir, yes sir!

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

She was all alone!

SNARGLE

GNARGLE

She totally fell for your trap!

SNARGLE

Totally sir!

JACK

Excellent! Well, tick tock tick tock! Time's almost up! But first, turn this back on!

Jack shows her Woden's ring. And he also begins to sniffle a little.

EMMA

What am I supposed to do with that?!

JACK

Turn it back ON!

EMMA

It's Woden's ring. He's the one you should be asking.

JACK

Think you're clever do you? You've made it past the Riddle Door, so you're smart. You convinced the Green Man to let you pass, so that's something. And you escaped my troll.

EMMA

George isn't your troll.

JACK

Who's George? Nevermind. I'll tell you what. You get this ring to work, and I'll let you and your brother go.

SNARGLE

SIR! He's our captain!

GNARGLE

Our fearless leader!

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Our friend!

JACK

Friend!? What am I, chopped liver? Nevermind. What do you say, Emma?

Jack SNEEZES.

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

Bless you!

EMMA

How do I know you'll keep your word. Bad guys never keep their word.

JACK

Bad guys? Bad guys? Why would you call me that? No, no, you're right, I am a bad guy. I only want to rule winter, and then rule the seasons, and make winter last for ever!

Jack SNEEZES again.

JACK

What is going on?

EMMA

My hands?

JACK

Fine! Release her.

With a wave, Jack makes Alex untie Emma. She reaches for the ring, but Jack pulls it away.

JACK

No funny business. After all, you've only got, two minuets left anyways, then you and your brother are stuck here forever! Mwahh. Laugh Minions!

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

SIR! Mwa-haaaaa-haaaaa.

Jack eyes Alex.

JACK

I said laugh.

Uncontrollably, Alex begins to laugh.

JACK

Enough! Thank you. Tick tock!

Jack waves the Ring in front of Emma.

EMMA

You promise?

Cross my heart, hope to melt.

JACK

Jack SNEEZES so hard he is knocked off his feet. The ring goes flying.

Emma catches it.

Bless you.

EMMA

They all look at her as if it should just pop on. But nothing happens.

And! Come on!

JACK

I'm trying!

EMMA

The first rays of dawn cut across the sky. Alex's skin starts turning snow white.

Emma!

ALEX

Emma suddenly remembers the flower. She pulls it out. The moment she does, Jack explodes in a frenzy of sneezes!

AH! AHCOO! Why are my eyes watering? Am I ACHOO melting!? Goblins, ACHOO!!

JACK

Achoo?

SNARGLE AND GNARGLE

ATTACK!!

JACK

Snargle and Gnargle lunge at Emma.

Emma grabs the flower tight. She VANISHES!

JACK

Where is she!?! Find her! AchOOOO!

Snargle and Gnargle leap, but the sunlight hits them.
They start to melt.

SNARGLE

Sorry sir!

GNARGLE

Melting sir!

JACK

You can't melt! I command you to stop melting and find that girl!

EMMA

I'm right here.

Emma reappears behind him, and sucker punches him.
He trips over the melting Snargle and Gnargle. And has a
furious sneezing fit.

JACK

Ah-HA! ACHOO!! ACHOO!!!

Emma puts the flower in her jacket. Jack instantly stops
sneezing.

JACK

Captain, get her!!

ALEX

NO!

Emma pulls out the flower. Jack begins sneezing again.

JACK

Stop! Please!!

ALEX

Looks like you're allergic to something!

JACK

What are allergies?

EMMA

It means you should be nicer to the other seasons!

Alex runs to Emma.

ALEX

I knew you'd come for me.

EMMA

But how to get back home?

JACK

Home? This is your new home! With the sunrise you'll be stuck here forever!

Jack makes a mad dash off, sniffing and sneezing all the way.

The sun rises.

ALEX

The ring? It'll get us home!

Emma looks at the ring. It is still dark. She closes her eyes, and puts the ring inside the flower.

EMMA

Please. Please. Make everything new again!

Suddenly, the ring glows brilliantly, blinding everyone.

But they are still there.

EMMA

Guess we will never get home now.

WODEN

I wouldn't say that!

Emma and Alex GASP and turn around at his voice!

EMMA

Woden!

WODEN

Emma! You did it!

Emma and Alex hug Woden.

WODEN

Easy! Nice to see you too.

ALEX

We won't be hearing from Jack for a long time huh Woden?

WODEN

He'll be back. Every year.

ALEX

And what about this cannon?

WODEN

I'll take care of that. But first. Time to go home.

EMMA

The sun is up! How are we going to get home? Aren't we stuck here forever?

WODEN

Forever is up to interpretation.

EMMA

What!?

Woden lifts up the ring. It's glow becomes a blinding:

WHITE OUT.

SCENE 11: BEST PRESENT EVER

Back in Emma's room. It is morning. Sunlight pours through a window. Emma blinks in agony.

EMMA

Ahhhh! What? My room? No way.

Emma leaps out of bed and opens the closet door. It is empty.

EMMA

That couldn't have been a dream.

Emma walks back to her bed and steps on her open scrap book.

She picks it up. Remembers the missing page.

She looks up and sees, on her nightstand, the Green Man Flower, perfectly preserved on a scrap book page.

She thinks then feels under her pillow. She finds two brand new Solstice Coins.

Wendy knocks and opens the door.

WENDY

Hello Emma? Time to-- OH. Thought you'd still be asleep. Did you sleep in your clothes?

EMMA

Mom! MOM!

Emma gives her Mom a big hug!

WENDY

Wow. I missed you too. Everything alright?

EMMA

What day is it?

WENDY

December twenty third.

EMMA

The day after the solstice?!

WENDY

Yes. You feeling ok? What's that?

EMMA

I'm fine!

In bursts Alex, with Ted right behind.

ALEX

OH MAN! You have got to see this!!!! You got your wish!!

EMMA

My what?

Alex grabs Emma and drags her out.

See what?

WENDY

You'll never believe it.

TED

Alex and Emma race out the front door. Ted and Wendy follow after.

Outside, Emma blinks away the brightness.

A snowflake flutters down in front of her disbelieving eyes.

She catches it on her tongue. Then she looks around.

The entire neighborhood is covered in the perfect amount of snow.

IT'S SNOWING!!

EMMA

BLACKOUT.